



Date: February 10, 2006
To: Gerald R. Miller, City Manager
From: Katherine Parsons, Public Information Officer
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: City Report for Week Ending February 10, 2005

This *City Report* highlights various City staff activities for the week ending, February 10. I hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

City Manager, Public Affairs

Sacramento Bee columnist Dan Walters turned his eye south this week in a February 6 piece that extolled the financial management and leadership of Long Beach as a model the fiscally beleaguered state of California should follow. Mr. Walters detailed the budget situation that Long Beach found itself in three years ago, how the City leaders crafted a plan, and how the plan turned the situation around. He recommended that the Governor and the Legislature take a few lessons in tough budget management from Long Beach.

The following day, February 7, the *Press-Telegram* ran an online editorial referring to Mr. Walters' praise, calling it deserved.

Community Development, Housing Services

Long Beach was one of only four cities in Los Angeles County to receive a CalHome allocation during this funding cycle. The State of California Department of Housing and Community Development approved \$750,000 in CalHome Mortgage Assistance loan funds for use by the Housing Services Bureau to finance silent second mortgages for Very Low and Low-Income first-time homebuyers. The allocation was based on a competitive application that was submitted to the State in October 2005. The other three cities were the City of Los Angeles (\$750K), City of Pico Rivera (\$500K), and the City of Pomona (\$500K).

Financial Management, Treasury

On July 19, 2005, the City Council authorized the refunding of the *2002 North Long Beach and Downtown RDA Tax Allocation Bonds* not to exceed \$45,000,000, with the goal to decrease the debt service expense for the North Long Beach Project Area and to increase available project funds for the Downtown Project Area.

Financial Management, Treasury (continued)

The finance team aggressively priced and heavily marketed this issue. The bonds were successfully refunded on January 9. Several term bonds were sold at a premium, further reducing the future debt service for the Redevelopment Agency.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Programs Bureau

On **February 11**, the California Recreation Center will host its 19th Annual Black History Program from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The theme for this event will be *Our Yesterdays...Their Tomorrow*. The festivities will include performances by local artists and guest speakers.

Financial Management, Purchasing

A workshop for vendors and contractors on how to do business with the City will be held on **February 16** at the CSULB Opportunities 2006 Vendor Fair. Ms. Vargas, the City's Purchasing Agent, and Alice Pitts, the City's Local Business Liaison, will host a booth at the event to provide additional information to vendors and contractors.

On **March 7**, at the Long Beach Women's Council Meeting, Ms. Pitts and Ms. Vargas will present information on doing business with the City, the local preference program, and various resources available to Long Beach businesses.

NEWS UPDATE

Starting February 8, a new State law banning disposal of universal waste in refuse or recycling bins went into effect. Universal waste contains harmful chemicals, which if put in the trash may harm people or the environment. Typical items include batteries, old thermostats, VCRs, telephones, fluorescent bulbs, microwave ovens and non-empty aerosol cans. Universal waste is accepted at Household Hazardous Waste and E-waste collection events or at S.A.F.E. collection centers. For a comprehensive list of locations, call 562.570.2876 or visit www.longbeach.gov.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Police

The Traffic Section and the Vice Detail conducted a suspended/revoked driver's license court sting. The officers monitored court cases involving drivers who have suspended/revoked licenses. Those subjects that chose to drive away from the court parking lot, after being ordered not to, were stopped and arrested for driving without a valid license. Of the thirty-five cases scheduled, nine hearings were conducted and two subjects chose to drive after a judge specifically ordered them not to. These subjects were arrested and their vehicles were impounded for up to thirty days. The operation was one of several components of a DUI Traffic Safety grant awarded to the Department by the California Office of Traffic Safety.

PUBLIC SAFETY
Police (continued)

Citywide, police officers responded to 617 priority one, 1,372 priority two and 1,066 priority three calls for service, for a total of 3,268.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Community Development, Neighborhood Services

More than 150 volunteers removed nine tons of trash from streets and sidewalks in the Hellman Neighborhood Improvement Strategy area during a clean-up organized by the Aquarium of the Pacific. Volunteers included students and residents from the Hellman Area Neighborhood Association, the Rose Park Neighborhood Association, Burbank Elementary School and Franklin Middle School areas. Staff provided a dumpster, tools, drinks and recruitment efforts. Portfolio Coffeehouse and Environmental Services provided additional support. For information on clean-ups in the Hellman Neighborhood Improvement Strategy area, email Gonzalo_Sanchez@longbeach.gov.

Community Development, Neighborhood Services

Residents from ten neighborhood organizations received *Neighborhoods, USA's 2006 Neighborhood of the Year Awards* application information and technical assistance at a workshop, hosted by the Neighborhood Resource Center. Gina Wallar and Bill Mauer made a presentation on Craftsman Village Historic District's 2nd Place Award in 2005. For more information, please call the Neighborhood Resource Center at 570.1010.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Community Development

Long Beach and neighboring business owners and representatives met at a Diversity Outreach Networking Session. Keynote speaker Ramesh Swamy, Director of USC's Los Angeles Metro Minority Business Development Center, spoke on *Tools for Expanding Your Business*, while other session highlights included an overview of conducting business with the City and current City procurement opportunities. Business marketing and networking followed the formal presentations. This event is held in alternating months at Operation Hope's community room located in the Union Bank of California building, 1900 Atlantic Ave. For more information, please contact Jesse Johnson at 570.6462.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Enrichment Programs Bureau

Ten students have enrolled in the winter docent training class at Rancho Los Cerritos, and another five experienced docents attended for *refresher training*. The ten-week evening course covers the history of the Rancho, information on the gardens, architecture and collections, and methods of interpretation. All trainees join Friends of Rancho Los Cerritos, the museum's membership and volunteer support group, and are expected to work at least one afternoon per month once they complete their training.

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SPECIAL EVENTS

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Programs Bureau

More than 500 participants from universities in California, Washington, Texas, Florida, and Alaska competed in the Pacific Collegiate Swim Conference Championships at Belmont Plaza Pool from February 8 to 11.

More than 175 youth participated in the Police Athletic Leagues (P.A.L.) Mobile Recreation at the Carmelitos Housing Project. Youth participated in Valentine crafts, as well as receiving holiday treat bags.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Special Events and Filming Bureau

Work is continuing on the 2006 Grand Prix 2006 coordination.

Work is continuing on the 2006 Long Beach Lesbian and Gay Pride Celebration and Parade.

CBS Productions, Inc., with a cast and crew of 75, filmed a TV Show *CSI: Miami* at El Dorado Park East and at a location on Ocean Boulevard on February 9.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

Financial Management, Commercial Services

Visits to Commercial Services counters in the City Hall Lobby exceeded January 2005 by over 4,500 visits, a service increase of approximately 18 per cent. Utility Services, Financial Services and Business Services generated a total of 29,739 visits,

Long Beach Gas & Oil, Gas Services Bureau

Staff completed a total of 3,084 service calls. This total included 1,032 Gas and Water Utility Turn Ons, and 707 Turn Offs. During this period, 1,106 Customer Service Orders were completed for services that included lighting pilots, adjusting and inspecting appliances, completing fumigation orders, and verifying read orders. A total of 211 meter maintenance and billing-related orders were completed. In addition, Gas Control/Dispatch (24/7 operation) received 468 emergency phone calls that resulted in 134 emergency orders being sent out.

COMPLETED CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Public Works, Street Improvements

7 th St.	Junipero Ave. to Redondo Ave.
Del Amo Blvd.	Los Angeles River to Long Beach Blvd.
Artesia Blvd.	West of Long Beach Blvd. to Harbor St.

Long Beach Gas and Oil, Gas Pipe Installation

71st Way between Myrtle Ave. and Orange Ave.
Atlantic Place and Eastondale Ave. between 72nd and Myrtle Ave.

Long Beach Gas and Oil, Gas Regulator Station Rebuild

Quincy Ave. and Vista St.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE (continued)

NEW CONSTRUCTION STARTS

Public Works, Street Improvements

Contact: 570.5160

Anaheim Street Obispo to Ximeno

Estimated Completion: March 2006

Long Beach Gas and Oil, Gas Pipe Installation

Contact: 570. 2326

Linden Avenue; De Forrest Park area

Estimated completion: 4/12/06

ONGOING CONSTRUCTION

Public Works, Street Improvements

Contact: 570.5160

Atlantic Ave. North of Artesia Blvd. to a point North of 68th St.

Cherry Ave. North of Artesia Blvd. to 70th St.

Artesia Blvd. East of Obispo Ave. to Downey Ave.

Estimated Completion: February 2006

Anaheim Street Obispo to Ximeno

Estimated Completion: March 2006

Long Beach Water, Alley Service Lateral Conversion

Contact: 570. 2326

Cedar Ave. E. Burnett St. to Hill St.

Chestnut Ave. E. Burnett St. to Hill St.

Pasadena Ave. E. Burnett St. to Pacific Electric Railroad

Linden Ave. E. Burnett St. to 25th Way

Estimated Completion: April 2006

Linden Avenue; De Forrest Park area.

Estimated completion: 4/12/06

Orange Avenue - between Lewis and Cherry Avenues.

Estimated completion: 4/24/06

Long Beach Gas and Oil, Gas Regulator Station Rebuild

Contact: 570.2060

Colorado St. & Nieto Ave.

Estimated Completion: 4/7/06

GRM: KP: arc

cc: Christine Shippey, Assistant City Manager
 Reginald Harrison, Deputy City Manager
 Suzanne Mason, Deputy City Manager
 City Manager Department Heads
 Tom Modica, Manager, Government Affairs
 Jyl Marden, City Council Liaison